

City Of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: APRIL 3, 2009

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: BUDGET MEMO # 71 : SHELTERCARE PROGRAM

This memorandum explains technical adjustments necessary for the City's budget for the Sheltercare Program. The Sheltercare Program is a temporary care group facility of 14 beds, located in Alexandria providing a safe and structured environment to at-risk adolescents in the City and Arlington County. Services provided include individual and group counseling, life skills, community service, educational and recreational services.

The proposed FY2010 budget (\$933,736) for the facility includes State support of \$193,358 and City support of \$740,378 for 11 of a total of 14 beds. The remaining three beds have previously been funded through a contract with Arlington County (\$196,381). However, the current contract with Arlington County reduces the previous use of three beds to just one bed, resulting in a shortfall of \$127,257. Also, due to State budget cuts, State support for the program was reduced by \$4,000, bringing the total shortfall to \$131,257.

The City plans to make a reasonable and practical effort to keep the former Arlington beds filled with Comprehensive Service Act (CSA) eligible youth. All CSA eligible youth at the facility would first be considered to fill these two beds. Fees for CSA eligible youth would be paid to Sheltercare from the CSA budget.

According to the program's FY 2008 actual data, the City's utilization of the facility was 84.2% and Arlington's utilization was 15.8%. Using this percentage to estimate CSA usage, the estimated shortfall, when the loss of funding from Arlington and the State are considered, would be \$24,107. This amount will not be paid to Sheltercare until the end of each quarter when a detailed invoice is presented, documenting the number of former Arlington beds that were not filled by CSA eligible youth for that quarter. These charges would be calculated on a per diem basis. If the charges for "empty" beds should exceed \$24,107, Sheltercare would be responsible for meeting the budgetary shortfall either by paying itself from the program's reserve fund or by reducing expenditures. If the charges for "empty" beds should be less than \$24,107, the surplus funds would stay in the City General Fund.

A technical amendment is proposed to increase the City's budget for Sheltercare by \$24,107 and to make an off setting reduction in the CSA budget (part of the Department of Human Services) in an equivalent amount. The use of Sheltercare for CSA eligible youth will provide some cost savings to the CSA program.

ATTACHMENT – Letter from Sue Lumpkin, Sheltercare Director



Juvenile Detention Commission For Northern Virginia
Sheltercare Program of Northern Virginia
 5920 Stevenson A venue
 Alexandria, Virginia 22304

March II, 2009

ATTACHMENT

Bruce Johnson, Director
 Alexandria Office of Management and Budget
 30 I King Street
 Room 3630
 Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Dear Mr. Johnson,

As you requested in our meeting on 3/10/09, I am writing to give you the statistics which would help to estimate the Sheltercare Program FYI 0 remaining shortfall should we secure the potential CSA funds. Since these funds would be provided only on a per diem basis, we can only estimate the remaining shortfall.

According to our statistics, the utilization by the City of Alexandria for FY08 was 84.2%. If we use this percentage to estimate the CSA usage then our remaining potential shortfall would be:

\$127,257 (estimated \$ loss from Arlington) \$
 4,000 (estimated \$ loss from State Funds) \$131
 ,257 (estimated total loss)

$127,257 \text{ minus } 84.2 \% (107,150) = 20,107 + 4,000 \text{ (state } \$ \text{ loss)} = 24,107$

Therefore, according to FY08 statistics, the remaining shortfall would be approximately **\$24,107.**

Thank you for your efforts on our behalf. Please let me know if you have any question/comments.

Sincerely,

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Susan Lumpkin, Sheltercare Director
slumpkin@jdcnv.org